

MINUTES of the NEWTON UPPER FALLS AREA COUNCIL

Pursuant to *An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations*, Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, signed into law by Governor Baker on July 16, 2022, this will be an Online Meeting

Participation Details:

Zoom Online Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/714158912>

Meeting ID: 714 158 912

One tap mobile +16468769923,714158912# US (New York) +16699006833,714158912# US (San Jose)

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Meeting ID: 714 158 912

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ani0ErE3g>

February 15, 2024 7:00 p.m.

Participation Details: Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/714158912>

Meeting ID: 714 158 912

1) Approval of Minutes from January Mtg (5 mins)

Jeff Riklin motioned to approve the minutes from January 2024 and Jack Neville seconded this motion. All 8 members of the Area Council voted to approve the minutes from the January meeting as submitted.

2) Treasurer's Report (5 mins)

Jay Werb reported on the plan to sponsor the Eagle Scout erosion mitigation project proposed by Daniel Lee-Hassett last month. Jeff Riklin confirmed the estimated total cost of the project and Jay confirmed the various sources of funding. Jay motioned that the Newton Upper Falls Area Council would contribute approximately a quarter of the cost (Estimated ~\$200). Patty Connolly seconded this motion. All other Area Councilors voted to approve this contribution to the project from NUFAC.

3) Public Comment/Questions?

4) Update on Pettee Square/Chestnut-Oak Improvement Project from Ned Codd, Director of Transportation Operations for Newton Public Works (~45min)

Ned Codd presented details related to the upcoming Improvement Project in Pettee Square, which is scheduled to begin in 2024 as soon as the weather allows (March or April). They are expecting to complete the project by the end of 2024. Codd also confirmed that he will do his best to ensure that Village Day (planned for Sept in Pettee Square) will not be disrupted by the construction. Some of the topics he covered in his presentation fell under the two overarching goals of the project: Pedestrian Safety and Aesthetic upgrades. Details will include: a raised intersection to calm speed, new curbs, bike racks, new traffic signals, and at least one EV charging station. The Area Council would like to include a new source of power around the Depot as well as the ability to hang banners in the square for events like Village Day.

5) Social Media Back up for Upper Falls Newsletter and confirmation of NUFAC Officers

Members of NUFAC agreed to help Kathaleen Brearley with minute taking since so one else was willing to take over the role of Secretary this term (2024-2026). Julie Irish (now President) motioned to move forward with this plan, and Marie Jackson seconded this motion. Matt Lai recommended we try using the AI feature included with Zoom software to reduce the labor of minute taking.

6)Google List of items for the Northland Transportation fund : ranking by priority for the March meeting Updates on items for Northland Transportation Fund list

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OchGo8Mfcx4ukK79a_i051GcmXzHGEiiv8LsHPSVLfU/edit?usp=sharing

Jay Werb motioned that if everyone agreed, he would take time to revise and sort the list of suggested Improvements using the Northland Transportation Fund by priority and that NUFAC could review his suggested prioritizations at the March meeting for approval. Patty Connolly seconded this motion. All members in attendance voted in agreement with this plan.

7)Upper Falls News, Public Comments, questions

Kathaleen Brearley noted that MassDOT is planning a project to replace the pedestrian bridge at the MBTA Elliot Station over Route 9. She attended the first public meeting on February 7th through MassDOT and said there would be more public meetings scheduled in Summer 2024.

As coach, Jeff Riklin reported recent successes for the Newton South Nordic Ski Races (both Girls and Boys). Riklin also reported on a few properties that are seeking approval from the Historic Commission now, including 14 Summer Street and 1036-38 Chestnut St(@SullivanAve).

8) Adjourn Jeff Riklin motioned to adjourn the meeting and Patricia Connolly seconded this motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm without objection.

The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA/Sec. 504 Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253.